ABSTRACT

Network node apparatus includes a physical layer interface (PHY) device, which includes a network port and a data output port. A field-programmable logic device includes a configuration port, which is coupled to the data output port of the PHY device so as to receive program code, which is transmitted over the network during a programming phase in order to program the field-programmable logic device. The logic device also includes a data input port, which is likewise coupled to the data output port of the PHY device so as to receive communication data transmitted over the network following conclusion of the programming phase, whereupon the field programmable logic device is programmed by the program code to process the communication data in accordance with a predetermined data link layer protocol.